

Dr Frazier replies:

"To answer the question of the reviewer: The people who should be trained to administer epinephrine are those who are in charge of others (especially schoolteachers). We have had no complaints concerning the use of 0.3 cc epinephrine and there are no contraindications. It is simple, easy, and has no side effects.

I have put together a training program that is a half-hour long and it explains anaphylaxis, the symptoms, and the proper treatment of an anaphylactic reaction to insect stings (or food or additive allergy). I have prepared a simple training outline, complete with slides, for use in giving the program."

**Claude A. Frazier MD**

*Dr Frazier has offered to come to Hawaii to conduct this training program. He can be contacted at his Asheville, NC office.—NG*



## Letter to the Editor

The editor welcomes letters from members of the Hawaii Medical Association as well as nonmembers. All letters must be signed with the writer's correct signature and include the address and telephone number for our verification.

Letters should be on a single subject and no longer than 200 words. Send to Letters to the Editor, Hawaii Medical Journal, 1360 S. Beretania Street, Second Floor, Honolulu, HI 96814.—ED.

### Wonder What Hippocrates Would Say?

Midway through the Hawaii State Legislative Session 1995, I'm already feeling like an old pro at screening bills, preparing testimony, and hanging around the senators and representatives, staffers and lobbyists. I've volunteered to be Executive Director of the Hawaii Federation of Physicians & Dentists, and this work is part of the job description; so is talking to lots of docs and their spouses about what is happening. I've discovered that there are many well-intentioned people out there trying to affect legislation dealing with health and medical care, trying to push their particular agendas. As a matter of fact, I recently introduced myself to HMSA's lobbyist and bought her a cup of coffee, joking that I was "fraternizing with the enemy." She turned out to be a very nice person, and very sincere in regretting that many people have a wrongly negative view about HMSA. I'm sure many of you would like to tell her about a few experiences you've had to justify your particular views about HMSA.

The point is, physicians who take care of people on a day-to-day basis have a unique and I believe very valuable perspective to contribute to the ongoing controversy about changing the way health and medical care is delivered. Ironically, those docs with the busiest practices in this community, who are presumably highly respected both by colleagues and patients, find themselves too busy for "politics." *Big Mistake!* All the well-intentioned people from HMSA, the Governor's office, Dept. of Health, the labor unions, the Nursing Association, etc, have lots of time to come to the Legislature and aggressively try to

advance their views. I see a glaring imbalance and whether the rest do or not, they don't seem eager to seek out the physician and patient perspective. They often don't realize that perhaps their agendas will have a detrimental effect on the quality of patient care and the ability of docs to do their best for their patients. They don't know what they don't know! Maybe we've got to amend the Hippocratic oath—"I further promise never to be apathetic about politics, support MD organizations, and testify at least two times at the Legislature on health care matters!

**Susan Chong Wong, Esq.**  
**President, Auxiliary to HCMS**



## Historical Notes

**John A. Breinich**  
**Executive Director**  
**Hawaii Medical Library**

Modern dentistry in Hawaii has its earliest recorded dental surgery on January 16, 1835 when Dr Alonzo Chapin, a missionary physician, extracted a tooth. His diary tells about a Mr Dibble: "A tumor growing from the socket of the tooth I extracted for him the other day and he has considerable apprehension about the result. I succeeded in pacifying him somewhat, but fear that a painful and formidable operation may yet be necessary: no less than break up the cheek bone, to come at it so as for removal." And there was no anesthetic then.

On December 11, 1847, Dr M.B. Stevens arrived in the islands as probably the first professional dentist. He advertised in the newspapers of his readiness "to perform any operation on the teeth that may be required, including insertion of teeth from one to an entire set, either on Pivot or Gold Plate." After 5 weeks he discontinued his advertisements and left the islands.

After studying a friend's dental books, passing the New York Dental Examination and having a practice in Albany, New York for four years, Dr John Mott-Smith opened his dental practice in Honolulu on April 26, 1851 and became Hawaii's first permanent dentist. Dr John M. Whitney, described as the first graduate dentist to practice in Honolulu, moved to Honolulu in 1869 to take over the practice of Dr Mott-Smith while he was in Washington DC. When Dr Mott-Smith returned, together they formulated the Board of Dental Examiners and Dr Whitney became the first president.

The first native-born Hawaiian dentist was Dr George Hermann Huddy who began studying dentistry in Honolulu in 1883 at the age of 14. He opened his own practice at the age of 18 and was quite successful. Later he enrolled in the University of California School of Dentistry in San Francisco, received his degree in dental surgery in 1892, and returned to Honolulu to resume his practice.